

## High Holiday Music

### Choral Singers and Instrumentalists Needed

Do you like to sing? Can you carry a tune? Would you like to learn some great songs in Hebrew, Yiddish, Ladino or English? Can you come to a rehearsal once a week and spend a few minutes a day singing along with your practice tape while you commute to work? If you answered yes, we'd love to have you with us. Together we'll enhance everybody's High Holiday experience with high-quality renditions of traditional choral works, as well as new music especially composed for CSZ services by our very own members.

The only requirement is a solid com-

mitment to the group's goal to make beautiful music. We should be so lucky you may already know how to read music or have choral singing experience. If not, don't worry. You'll learn like everybody else. We also need musicians. If you play an instrument and would like to participate, please let us know! Rehearsals start the first week in June and continue through Yom Kippur. For more information, please contact Jose Luis Moscovich immediately (557-6857). Please leave your name, phone/fax and best times to reach you.

## Everyone's Issue

### Out of the Bisexual Closet

On July 8, Lyssa Friedman will lead services and give a d'rash on bisexuality. The oneg afterwards will be sponsored by the Bi's of CSZ and the Jewish Bi Caucus of BiPOL. On Sunday, July 24, there will be an afternoon potluck and panel discussion. The panel will consist of several bisexuals who will each give a short presentation and of whom interested CSZ members can ask anything (well, almost) they ever wanted to know. Through this we hope to create a lively and spirited exchange. The potluck and panel will be sponsored by Nathan Robinson and me. Watch the *Forward* for more details.

I am quite excited to have a part in organizing these events. In the year and a half that I have been a member, I have felt very accepted at CSZ except in the area of my orientation. I felt this acceptance in Ethan's beautiful and spiritual bar mitzvah at CSZ. He had four wonderful teachers who gave from their hearts — Daniel Chesir, Jonathan Comisar, Rabbi Kahn and Phyllis Mintzer. Ethan's life and my life were forever changed by this event (and all the studying leading up to it). Yet, discussions on the issues raised by bisexuality with various (but not all!) members have yielded comments like that of one gay

man, "It's not my issue"; or, to paraphrase a lesbian I spoke with, bi women cannot be trusted. I have met many CSZ members who are bi, not as comfortable as I am and who feel invisible or excluded.

Given the way our society is set up today, bisexuality appears to be a problem. But then Jews have been labeled a problem in certain societies, as have homosexuals and lesbians (when they were visible). And while no one within CSZ is trying to eliminate bisexuality, we are not talking about it either. In the Saturday morning Siddur we say the *Asher Yatzar* — For our bodies, in which we give thanks for the spark of life: "... if but one element of this wondrous structure were to fail in its tasks, we could not stand before You and give thanks for Your sustenance." I believe that bisexuals (as well as gays and lesbians and heterosexuals) are an essential "element of this wondrous structure." Our absence or failure to create symbiosis will bring down the ecology of God's sustenance. We are also admonished in the *Elohei N'shamah*—For our souls, to be who we are, for if we do not, we will "never exist through any other medium ... the world will not have it."

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# FORWARD

## Do You Want to Lead a Yom Kippur Discussion?

Two years in a row makes it a tradition at Sha'ar Zahav! For the last two years, we have enhanced the High Holiday experience by holding Tikkunim—discussion groups—on Yom Kippur afternoon.

The High Holidays begin early this year, Yom Kippur falling on September 15. We are seeking proposals for discussion groups. Is there a topic you think would be appropriate? Something that would enhance the spirituality of the day? Some area where you have expertise or life experience?

In the past we have offered a variety to better serve the different needs of congregants on that holy day. While one discussion dealt with political activism from a Jewish perspective, another looked at recovery issues, while still another was an opportunity to look at a Torah portion in a traditional study setting.

Consider what you might like to see discussed, what would enhance the day for you. Then consider what you could contribute toward making such a discussion group happen.

Bear in mind that we need balance in what we offer our congregants, and we need to remember the solemnity of the day.

Send your proposals for Yom Kippur Tikkunim to Henry Mach, 521 Noe St., San Francisco, CA 94114. For further information, call Henry (863-4910).

## High Holidays Preview

It's barely summertime and yet it's not too soon to start thinking about the High Holidays, which begin this year with the call of the shofar on *erev* Rosh Hashanah, September 5. Once again, most of these services will be held at the Unitarian Center (1187 Franklin at Geary). To ensure that CSZ members and their guests can be comfortably seated in the sanctuary, tickets will be required for *erev* Rosh Hashanah and Kol Nidre (September 14).

Tickets are not automatically sent to

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## Spiritual Insurance

It's almost summertime; time to worry about how we look in bathing suits and shorts. Every year many of us go through the same cycle: as warmer weather approaches, we begin to eye our bodies anxiously. Can we face the first trip to the beach, or to a picnic? After a few weeks of grim contemplation, we start trying to skip dessert, and eat a carrot or two. After the first really warm weekend in the Castro, as we walk around in long sleeves, gazing enviously around us, we join the local gym. We swear we'll be diligent; we often *are* diligent. We pump, we exercise, we circuit-train. We sweat, pant, and collapse. Perhaps we make some progress, and get a chance to wear that revealing outfit.

But sooner or later, we slow down. It's getting cooler and a sweater covers more; or it gets boring; or the cute men or women stop working out at that gym. At some point, we realize that we haven't gone to the gym in a while, and we start buying weekly or daily passes instead of longer-term memberships. Eventually we don't renew the membership at all. After all, why pay all that money if you're not going to go? After careful calculation, we determine that, at the rate we are going, it is costing us \$45 for each gym visit. At some point, it just isn't worth it.

You have just received your dues pledge form for 1994-95, asking you to commit yourself to paying about 1% of your gross annual income in dues to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav. This time of year, some people find themselves reflecting on their temple membership in the same way they will (later in the season) reflect upon their gym membership. "Do I really use it enough? If I go to services only four times a year, plus High Holidays, let's see, that's how much per service?" One percent of your gross income is not a small number for anyone, and every year one or two people say to me: "I just don't come enough to make it worth it." What's wrong with that analysis? It works well for gym membership; why not for temple membership?

The answer is that we join gyms and



Tiela Chalmers

temples for different reasons. Our reasons for joining a gym are purely personal. We get no pleasure or sense of community just from knowing that the gym is there. The only benefit we get from it is personal use. It doesn't sustain us spiritually; it is only what we personally may do there that provides us with sustenance. A gym is only a part of our lives to the extent that we actively use it. It is, after all, a profit-making business, run by someone seeking to make a living by a happy confluence of our need for exercise and their ownership of a means of exercise. If the gym fails, and must close, we may be disappointed (as when our favorite restaurant closes), but our spiritual community is not diminished. We simply move on to a different gym, or start running instead.

A temple, on the other hand, is the

if they do not personally want to come to services much, or to attend a class or a committee meeting.

It is our vested interest in matters beyond our own personal concerns, then, that makes a community different from a gym. This is why it is important to nonparents that we have a children's education program; why HIV-negative people very much want us to provide services for HIV-positive people; why Jewish members with Jewish partners care about how we welcome and include non-Jews who wish to join us. Even when these particular aspects of synagogue life do not touch us directly, they are important to a vibrant and healthy community—and so ultimately are in our own best interest.

This same effect is seen in public life. You may not be a parent, but your tax dollars help pay for public education. This is aggravating to some people, but makes perfect, self-interested sense. Setting aside the moral obligations we owe to each other and society, you don't want the next generation to grow up largely uneducated. Without public schools we could expect more crime, more drug use, more homelessness, and, quite quickly, a very damaged economy. No matter what your political beliefs, that result hurts everyone.

Indeed, this value of sharing the monetary costs of community (because we all would bear the brunt of a breakdown of that community) is also expressed in our fair share dues approach. There are two basic models of synagogue membership. Some synagogues charge a flat rate—often about \$1,500 per family. Other synagogues use the fair share approach, making dues dependent on the member's income. Although this approach is more difficult to administer, we feel it is also the fairest way to share costs. We chose the fair share model because we believe that it best reflects our value of inclusiveness. If your income is low, you pay less than the person whose income is high. We have one of the lowest rates (1%) among fair share congregations that we know of. And, of course, we will always work hard to accommodate particular needs and hardship situations.

Finally, let me ask you also to think about the safety net that a vibrant syna-

Continued on page 8

### Reach Out and Touch Someone

Are you available during the day or evening to assist CSZ members in need of an occasional helping hand?

Take that extra step. Call the Bikkur Cholim Committee at the CSZ office. Let us know that we can call you when the need arises.

embodiment of community. Certainly we are rewarded and renewed when we attend services or a class. However, Sha'ar Zahav also sustains us even when we do not attend at all, by maintaining a Jewish community of which we are a part, even when we stay at home. When Sha'ar Zahav remains vibrant, we are assured that our larger community is intact. This dynamic is not unlike the role a family plays, in giving us a sense of belonging and welcome even (or maybe especially) as we move out into the world—and only rarely return home physically. Our members want there to be a strong Jewish community, and, in particular, a welcoming place of our own for gay, lesbian and bisexual Jews. They want this even

## **Children's Programming Meeting**

Children, parents, and non-parents are invited to the quarterly Children's Programming Meeting. The meeting will take place on Sunday, June 12, between 10:30 and 12 in the house of Bonnie Bishop, Amy Weston, and their son Benjamin, at 23 Edwin Drive, Kensington. We are making an effort to meet in the East Bay, so that, for once, East Bay members will not have to cross the great divide. At the meeting we will discuss ideas for the High Holidays (yes, they're coming sooner than you could say "Yom Kippur"), as well as other concerns for parents and kids. If you have any questions regarding the event, call the synagogue office (861-6932). If you need instructions on how to get there, call Bonnie and Amy (510/527-8250).

## **Grants for Lesbian/Gay Families**

The Joseph Towner Fund for Gay and Lesbian Families awards small scholarships (up to \$500 a semester) to post-secondary students who have a lesbian or gay parent living in the greater Bay Area. The Fund also provides small technical assistance grants to organizations doing work with gay and lesbian families. For information and application form, call the Horizons Foundation (398-2333), which administers the Fund. Call soon; the application deadline is June 15!

## **Forum for Gay and Lesbian Parents of Young Children**

Jewish Family and Children's Services of the East Bay (JFCS) is inviting all interested gay and lesbian parents to a workshop on parenting issues. The workshop will focus on parenting in early childhood: infancy through the preschool years.

The workshop will be led by Rachel Biale, LCSW, who is the JFCS Clinical Consultant. She has extensive experience in working with families and children, and in parenting guidance and education.

The workshop is free and open to all. It will be held at 7 pm on Thursday, June 9, at the Berkeley Richmond JCC Preschool, 1414 Walnut Street, Berkeley.

For further information, please call Rachel Biale (510/532-6314).

## **Naches**

To Ellen Elias, on her new position as Director of Corporate Communications at Escar, Inc. in Santa Rosa.

To Stephanie Wolper & Jane Greenfield, on the birth of Olivia Wolper Greenfield.

To Dyan Dreisbach & Joyce Newstat, on the birth of Ruth Newstat Dreisbach.

To Shelley Spiro, on receiving her gerontological nurse practitioner certificate from UCSF.

To AnneElena Foster and Corey Mercier on their Kiddushin.

To Dianne Hawk and Andrea Palash on their Kiddushin last January (sorry we missed putting you in earlier!).

To Ivan Vincente, on his new position in cash management at Wells Fargo Bank.

To Robin Leonard and Lee Ryan, on the purchase of their new home.

## **Feedback Welcome July 8**

## **Prayerbook Project Enters New Phase**

How can Sha'ar Zahav create a new Friday night prayerbook that our Congregation can be proud of well into the next century, unless we first learn about the prayers, the services and the function of the prayerbook?

Toward this end, we will be forming study groups—each one dedicated to a part of the service. We hope to have these study groups functioning in the fall, using the High Holidays as a start-up point. They will provide CSZ members with an opportunity to become more familiar with the history of the prayers, the function of the parts of the service, and the underlying meaning in our rituals.

Membership in these study groups will be open to any Sha'ar Zahav member. Anyone who has already expressed

interest in being part of the new prayerbook project will be contacted when the study groups are set to begin.

Guidelines for the new prayerbook will be created by the Steering Committee recently established by the Va'ad. Members of the Steering Committee will be guided by the Sha'ar Zahav tradition of diversity and by input that has already been received concerning the new prayerbook. But to make sure there is an opportunity for Congregational feedback on the guidelines, there will be an open discussion with members of the Steering Committee, to be held after Friday night services, July 8.

For further information about the prayerbook project, please call Henry Mach (863-4910).



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## May Va'ad Report

May's Va'ad Meeting opened with Treasurer Gary Sokol leading our *D'var Torah*. Gary noted that the week's Haftarah reading discussed the relationship of husband and wife, and compared it to the relationship between God and humanity. Gary put forth the idea that we have a covenant, complete with stresses and strains, weaknesses and strengths. It is important that we recognize this fact, and strive to strengthen this covenant in the course of our day-to-day living.

The Va'ad approved the new membership of five adults and one child, and also noted that three members had resigned, three had been dropped, and one had been reinstated.

Although no catchy label such as "Hoopla II" or "Child of Hoopla" has yet been coined, preliminary planning is now under way to commemorate the Congregation's eighteenth anniversary and the Rabbi's tenth anniversary. Allan Gold presented a brief working outline to the Va'ad for purposes of discussion.

Tiela Chalmers' President's Report touched on a number of items. The Renovations Committee might have to prepare architectural drawings of the planned renovations to the sanctuary. If this happens, it will delay the schedule which we had hoped to follow. Tiela announced that meetings of CSZ's parents will now be taking place on a quarterly basis. The upcoming Freedom Day Parade will be publicized through ads and flyers in the *Forward*. In addition, there will be a Pre-Parade Pageant which will serve to defray parade costs and also generate interest in the event. Tiela was pleased to announce that Judith Cohen will be assuming the Chair of the Adult Education Committee, and Barney Ugarte will be resuming his position as advertising coordinator for the *Forward*.

The Va'ad concluded this part of its session with *Oseh Shalom*, followed by a lengthy closed meeting.

—Mark Mackler, Recorder

## Members' Yahrzeits

2	Mark Feldman
8	Robert Mackey
9	Duff Kreitzberg
14	Mirtha Beal
17	Joe Zygelbaum

## April 9 Bat Mitzvah D'rash

### Drunk, Disrespectful, or Just Different?

In my Torah portion, Moses has trained Aaron and his four sons to be priests. Seven days of training have passed and now God tells them how to perform a sacrifice for the sanctuary. Nadab and Abihu, two of Aaron's sons, do not wait for God's command and perform the sacrifice on their own, in their own way, using a "strange fire." Then God kills Nadab and Abihu by sending a flash of lightning and they burn to death. The people bury them and then gather together.

The commentaries, or Midrash, on this portion give various reasons for Nadab and Abihu's actions. Some say that they were drunk. Some say that they were jealous of their father and disrespectful of him. Others say that they hoped to take over leadership from Moses and Aaron. Still others say that they were just too enthusiastic and simply couldn't wait for God's command to do the sacrifice. They did it too soon and not according to God's instructions, so therefore they were undisciplined and disrespectful to God. Yet others say that the sacrifice for the new sanctuary was actually the death of Nadab and Abihu, who were themselves the sacrifice.

My interpretation of this portion is different. I believe it was wrong to kill Nadab and Abihu. I do not think people should be killed for their beliefs. Nadab and Abihu were trying to change the traditional way things were done. I believe their actions were deliberate and do not think that they were drunk. Perhaps they wanted more power and felt the need to change the old traditional ways. It is not exactly clear what change they brought to the service, or what the "strange fire" was.

The Hebrew word for strange, used in this portion, is the word for "foreign." Perhaps the ideas Nadab and Abihu brought were from another group. To me, it is good to bring ideas and thoughts from other groups and sometimes to act on them. However, it is often difficult for people to accept things that are not their own, and they might become intolerant, which may lead to racism.

In my opinion it is the people who killed Nadab and Abihu, and not God. I think the people were afraid of the

new ways and felt threatened. I believe they were wrong in being so narrow-minded that they had to kill and destroy evidence of change in their religion.

In Judaism we are often taught to explore and question our own teachings. This portion shows me a totally different side of Judaism which I do not accept. The Judaism I value teaches tolerance and respect for other people's beliefs. The most important thing to me is to be a good person and not to focus only on discipline and order.

Throughout our history, Jews have often been killed for their beliefs. I am proud that the majority of Jews do not act with intolerance, although they have historically been treated that way.

What I have learned from this Torah portion and what I would like to share with you today is that in every religion there is always a need to explore others' ways and learn more about ourselves. We should be more accepting of people's new ideas, as long as they are not hurtful to anyone. Ideas which are different from your own may be threatening, but this does not make them wrong. In a way, when we block out new ideas, we betray our tradition of tolerance and openness. It is our responsibility as human beings to constantly learn and expand our ideas. We can only do this by listening to others and respecting their ways. May we all be able to look beyond ourselves to learn.

—Maayan Lieberman

## New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our congregation gained the following new members this month. A warm welcome to the latest people to join our family:

A. L.

David Angel & Ronald Murphy

Steve Lowinger & his son Samuel Austin Lowinger

Lisa Niver

We are grateful to see our congregation grow. It is up to all of us to help our new members feel welcome as they become active participants in our community.

**March 12 Bar Mitzvah D'rash**

## The Purpose of Mitzvot

### Shabbat Shalom!

This Shabbat is called Shabbat Ha-Chodesh. It means the Shabbat of the month, and the month means the most important month, which is Nisan. The Hebrew month Nisan starts on the thirteenth of March on the Gregorian calendar, which is tomorrow.

Nisan is important because the people of Israel were liberated from Egypt at that time. The special Torah reading for Shabbat Ha-Chodesh is Exodus chapter 12, verses 1-20.

Prior to this point in the Torah, Moses has argued with the Pharaoh and all of the ten plagues have finished. However, the people have not gotten out of Egypt yet. In the twenty verses I have read, the Israelites are instructed in three mitzvot: how to make the matzot, how to kill and eat the yearling lamb or goat, and how to smear the blood from the lambs or goats on the doorposts of their houses in order to be identified as Jews.

What is the importance of the Jews' being given these mitzvot?

I believe that these three mitzvot were little tests from God for the Israelites. These three tests prepared us to receive the Ten Commandments and the Torah at Sinai. The test enabled God to see and make sure that we

Alex Rader

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could keep the mitzvot in the Torah. God needed to know that we would be able to understand and complete them.

God saw that we Jews could be faithful to God and so, later, we were given the Torah. These little laws in my Torah portion are like practice tests for the coming redemption.

The mitzvot and the Ten Commandments were given to the Jews by God to lead us to redemption. To us, redemption means we would be able to know the difference between good and evil and have the will always to do the most good. We also believe that keeping the mitzvot will put us in good favor with God so we will survive and pass the mitzvot on to our children.

The mitzvot are a route to showing faith. God is still testing whether future generations, that is to say we, can keep what was given at Sinai in spite of all the things that have happened in these hundreds of years since then, including the Inquisition, the Holocaust, and other bad things.

It seems to me that God intended that the mitzvot and the Ten Commandments be a system to create peace. If we follow the Ten Commandments, then we get closer and closer to redemption. The closer we get to redemption, the better the world and our lives are supposed to get.

We should keep the mitzvot because if we do, then redemption will come. If we have faith in redemption, then, even if things are going badly, we will persist in doing good to make the world better.

Passing tests requires that we study. May our study and action bring redemption to the world. Amen.

—Ethan Frazin

## Bisexual Closet

*Continued from page 1*

Our goal with these events is to create movement towards understanding on the many sides of these issues. Information should be freely exchanged and we should get to hear each other out. I hope each of you who does not know what the issue is, or who feels this is not your issue, or who feels mistrust, will come and listen and ask the hard questions in a spirit of openness.

—Jim Frazin

## Yizkor Elohim

Dr. Thomas Yazman

December 2, 1945 – May 14, 1994

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

## Gift Shop



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Congregation Sha'ar Zahav  
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# PRE-PRIDE-PARADE PAGEANT

A Benefit for CSZ's Contingent  
in the June 19 Lesbian and Gay Parade



Featuring:

The Sha'ar Zahav Klezmer Band  
led by Devra Noily and Jonathan Comisar

Lisa Geduldig, Comedian  
Sara Felder, Juggling Diva

*Singing — Dancing — Refreshments*

(This is a chance to learn the songs and dances for the parade. See page 7.)

Saturday, June 11  
Congregation Sha'ar Zahav  
220 Danvers Street, San Francisco

*Sliding scale \$5-20*

No one turned away for lack of funds

Havdalah service at 8:15 pm  
Show begins at 8:30 pm

For further info call 861-6932 or 510/658-8713

# FREEDOM DAY PARADE

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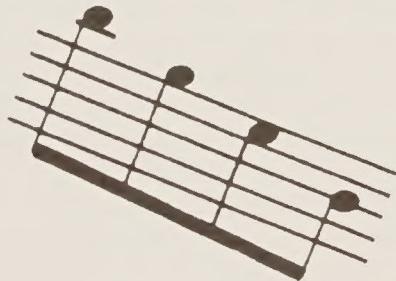
*Join the  
SHA'AR ZAHAV KLEZMER BAND  
as we march, sing and dance!*



(Learn the songs and dances at PRE-PRIDE-PARADE PAGEANT. See page 6.)



*Everyone is welcome!*



**DATE:** Sunday, June 19

**TIME:** 10:30 am for a pre-parade breakfast and rehearsal

**PLACE:** Call Jonathan Comisar (931-8667)  
or the synagogue office (861-6932)  
for exact information.



**IMPORTANT:** Please wear your white  
Sha'ar Zahav T-shirt or any white T-shirt



*We would like to thank Walt Leiss and Mike Rankin  
for their generous donations to defray our parade expenses.*

## President's Column

*Continued from page 2*

gogue provides. If you are lucky, you have not needed to meet with Rabbi Kahn to plan a funeral, or to get advice on dealing spiritually with your own failing health. You may not have been lucky enough yet to attend one of our wonderful Kiddushin or wedding celebrations, or a baby naming. But, if one of those occasions comes up, and you need the services of your synagogue, you are counting on the fact that it will be there.

Now, if you were suddenly ill, and were taken to the hospital, you wouldn't want the emergency room clerk to say: "Let's see, looks like you're going to need a bed. I'll send someone out to buy one. And a doctor. We don't have any of those, but I know some smart people who might be willing to go to school for a lot of years. I hope you weren't expecting a building to be treated in?" No, no: you want that bed and that doctor and that building poised and ready to go into action if you need them. And (whether you've thought of it this way or not) you expect the same from your synagogue. If you should need counseling about health, or someone to preside at a funeral or a baby naming, or someplace to go to say kaddish, you want us to be right there with a Rabbi (with inclusive and sensitive liturgy already written), a building, and a supportive community.

In my last President's column (which I know you read very carefully) I pointed out that, even if you only come to Sha'ar Zahav at High Holidays, and to observe a yahrzeit, and read the newsletter, you are using the services that make up 90% of our budget. This month, I want you to understand that even if you almost never come to Sha'ar Zahav, or call on our services, we ask you to pay dues because of what you gain by having your community here and strong. You are paying to ensure that you have a home, a welcoming community, a spiritual and cultural anchor. You are paying, not gym dues, but a kind of spiritual insurance, to make sure that, should you ever need our services, we will be there.

In this dues season, then, I hope that you will reflect on the benefits of community, and the spiritual renewal of a home base, and feel strong and proud as you fill in your dues pledge form and move into the new fiscal year with your community.

Oh, and good luck in the gym, too.

Think Congregational, Act Residential

## A Presidential Plea to Honor Thy Neighbors

As you know, we are located in a residential neighborhood, and we need to respect and coexist with our residential neighbors. Sometimes, especially on nights when we are having a party or a particularly crowded service, we forget to act residential. We need to get along with our neighbors (both for philosophical and for practical reasons), so I need to ask you to observe these requests from those neighbors:

- Park legally! Do not block driveways, wheelchair ramps or fire hydrants.
- Do not sit or lean on, or pile things on, parked cars (except your own).
- Do not leave cigarette butts or other trash on the steps, sidewalks or streets surrounding the synagogue.
- Park facing the correct way. Parking on Danvers is limited to the east side of the street, so you must park with your car facing north (towards Market Street).
- Please park motorcycles on the street, not on the sidewalk (where they leave grease stains).
- Please try to keep noise to a minimum outside, particularly at night.

I met recently with the owners of the house at 199 Caselli, the house at the corner of Danvers and Caselli just across Danvers (the alley) from the synagogue. They are concerned because people tend to bang open car doors into the side of their house, to park up against that utility wire next to their house, and to lean on their fence. Please make a special effort not to do these things. The two women who live there want to be our good neighbors, but when people connected with Sha'ar Zahav do things (often without realizing it) that affect their property, it reflects badly on the whole

synagogue. Whether or not these concerns make sense to you, please help us maintain our good relationship with this neighborhood. Thanks!

—Tiela Chalmers



## Birthdays

1	C.M.
1	Donald Abrams
2	Lisa Feldstein
2	Nina Wouk
3	Shoshana Jacobs-Levine
3	Stephanie Wolper
3	David Hyman
4	Ora Prochovnick
5	Katye Gulley
6	Nina Jacobs-Levine
6	Marsha Blachman
7	Amy Weston
8	Matthew Golden
8	Daniel Asher Sadlier
9	Malia Lewis
9	Allyce Kimerling
9	Barbara Becker
10	Claudia Bernard
10	Daniel Chesir
10	Rose Katz
11	Timothy Rubin
11	David Rosenthal
11	Annie Winters
13	Michal Goralsky
15	Steven Wiesner
16	Nathan Sinclair
16	Nancy Levin
17	Adam Bellm Kahn
17	Pieter de Haan
18	Margaret Livingston
18	Jason Gaber
20	Janis Portal
20	Larry Wexler
20	Leslie Caplan
21	Richard Sinkoff
21	Eileen Levy
22	Margaret Rossoff
24	Howard Goldberg
26	Marc Lipschutz
28	Lisa Katz
29	Eve Meyer
29	Emma Buchbinder
30	Benjamin Blachman-Forshay



## High Holidays

*Continued from page 1*

members, but must be requested via the ticket request form mailed to each member in the membership renewal package. CSZ members in good standing are eligible to receive High Holiday tickets (your 1993-94 dues pledge must be paid in full and at least the first installment of your 1994-95 dues pledge must also be paid).

Each member is entitled to receive one free ticket and to get a ticket for a guest. We request a donation of \$54 (three times *chai*) per guest for each evening service. Those with special financial circumstances should contact the synagogue office. No one will be refused a ticket due to inability to contribute. The sanctuary has room for one guest per member, but we'll do our best to accommodate requests for more than one guest ticket once all members have had the chance to submit their requests.

As in the past, the chapel and the Starr King Room will carry the main service over loudspeakers, with volunteers officiating. Tickets will not be required for evening services in these additional seating areas. In addition, daytime services are open to all and no tickets will be necessary. Child care will be available at reasonable cost, and reservations will be required. Details will follow in next month's *Forward*.

### Want to Participate?

In our synagogue's tradition of lay leadership, we invite members of the congregation to participate in High Holiday services through reading in English or Hebrew, chanting Torah or perhaps blowing the shofar.

If you are interested in taking part in High Holiday services by sharing your ritual skills with the congregation, please

complete the High Holiday Participation Form in this issue of the *Forward* and send it to the office by June 24.

### How to Help

There are so many joyful ways to get involved throughout the High Holidays. Ritual participation is certainly one, but volunteers are also critical for ushering, oneg preparation, child care assistance, sign production, and telephone networking. Please let us know how you would like to share your energy and time. Contact High Holiday coordinator Jeff Forman (648-0381).

## Spiritual Support for People with HIV/AIDS

CSZ members (and partners) who are living with HIV are invited to participate in our ongoing spiritual support group. We gather every month, alternating between a Shabbat dinner one month and a more structured discussion the next month. The catered Shabbat dinners are hosted by members of the group. During Rabbi Kahn's sabbatical, the support group meetings will be facilitated by Rabbi Nancy Flam, a CSZ member and Director of the Jewish Healing Center. The support group meetings are drop-in, but we would appreciate a call ahead if you plan to come. If you would like to be added to the confidential mailing list for these programs, please call the Rabbi's secretary, David Couch, at the CSZ office. Upcoming programs include a spiritual support group, Thursday, June 9 and August 18, 7:30 - 9 pm in the CSZ library. Rabbi Flam will facilitate a two-session discussion on "Sustaining Our Spirits."



## Anniversaries

2	Lillian Schaechner & Elaine Weissman
9	C.M. & B.M.
9	Joe Hample & Reineres Susilla
10	Frank Yellin & Mark Showalter
12	Irene Ogas & Rosalinda del Moral
13	Yoel Kahn & Dan Bellm
13	Michal Goralsky & Lisa Ginsburg
18	Rachel Wahba & Judy Dlugacz
19	Lisa Brand & Betsy Levine
19	Jonathan Pannor & Bill Valentine
21	Shelley Samuels & Robin Dubner
21	Debbi Jacobs-Levine & Joel Levine
21	Lolma Olson & Beth Reed
24	Lyssa Friedman & Daphne Stuart
29	Tova Green & Fran Peavey
30	Susan Gelmis & Ilene Dick
30	Alita Rosenfeld & Kate Sharp



## Class for the Developmentally Disabled

Rabbi Gerald Raiskin of Peninsula Temple Sholom in Burlingame is starting a class for severely developmentally disabled people of all ages. It is for the purpose of giving their parents some naches. The participating families need not be affiliated with Peninsula Temple Sholom or any temple. If interested, call Rabbi Raiskin (697-2266).

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## Contributions

Sha'ar Zahav welcomes all contributions of all sizes to mark any event and to add to any of our funds. Contributions will be acknowledged in the *Forward* unless otherwise requested.

Donations were made to Sha'ar Zahav's funds in the past months by the following contributors:

### AIDS Fund

**Mike Rankin**, in honor of Bennett Mark's birthday.

**Mike Rankin**, in memory of Joey Felts.

### Bikkur Cholim Fund

**Nina Raff, Annie Winters & Reuben Isaac Raff**, in memory of Lillian Raff.

### Education Fund

**Jonathan Funk & John Arnold**, in honor of Liora Kian Gutierrez receiving her Master's Degree in Education Administration.

### General Fund

**Martha & Alexander Schwartz**, in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Tova Green.

**Daniel Chesir & Stefan Rowniak**, in honor of the birthday of Irene Oguis.

**Philip & Renata Berg**

**Robin Leonard & Lee Ryan**, in honor of the B'nai Mitzvah of Tova Green, Rose Katz & Eileen Levy.

**Alex Ingersoll & David Stein**, in honor of Shirley Liberman's birthday.

**Barnaby M. Ugarte, Jennifer Asche, David Smith & Bill Picture**, to commemorate the death of Michael Mutterspaugh.

**Steve Elman & Tom Holt**, in honor of the Kiddushin of Judy Schwartz & Carolyn Pines.

**Nina Raff, Annie Winters & Reuben Isaac Raff**, in honor of the Kiddushin of Judy Schwartz & Carolyn Pines.

## Out-of-Town Holidays

Going to be out of town at High Holidays? Some UAHC-member synagogues offer seating to members in good standing of other UAHC congregations. Call the office for more information.

**Jeanette Nichols**, in honor of the B'nai Mitzvah of Tova Green, Rose Katz & Eileen Levy.

**Jonathan Funk**, in memory of Ron Friend.

**Marc Cohen**, President of the Mosaic Law Congregation.

**Cynthia Colvin & Matthew H. Wolf**, in honor of the Kiddushin of Carolyn Pines & Judy Schwartz.

**Shelley Spiro & Gabriele Kassner**, in honor of Leonard Brill's birthday.

**Marion Trentman & Betty Kalis**, in celebration of Jeff Forman & Paul Nemrow's new home.

**Cynthia Greenberg & Rebecca Tarin**, in memory of Golda Morse.

**Jonathan Funk & John Arnold**, in honor of Tani Meir's graduation from college.

**The Jewish Gaily Forward** is published by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, 861-6932. Permission to reproduce material is freely given, and credit would be appreciated.

Members of the congregation receive the *Forward*. For \$18/year, nonmembers will receive a *Forward* subscription.

### Members of the Newsletter Committee

*Chair*: Joe Hamble (621-7675)

*Editing/Proofreading/Layout*: John Bachert, Alison Cohen, Stephan Howard, Richard Inlander, Tess Johnson, Betty Kalis, Rose Katz, Stan Kern, Robin Leonard, Martha Moon, Carolyn Pines, Ivan Vincente

*Photography*: Michael Bettinger

*Advertising*: Barney Ugarte

*Distribution*: Allen Brandstein, Alison Cohen, Sara Haber, Lisa Halton, Gordon Osser, Sam Thal, David Weinstein, Eli Weinstein, Sylvia Weisenberg

*Typesetting*: David Lester, Mouse Type Inc.

*Printing*: Genesis Printing & Graphics

**Display Ads** are \$15 per column inch for nonmembers and \$10 per column inch for members, with discounts available for size and frequency. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

**Classified Ads** are \$5 for up to 20 words, plus \$1 for each 10 additional words. No personals accepted.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, marked attention *Forward* advertising. The *Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste.

### Inclusive Liturgy Fund

**Betty Kalis**, in honor of the B'nai Mitzvah of Tova Green, Rose Katz & Eileen Levy.

**Betty Kalis**, in memory of Rose Jacobstein.

### Kadimah Fund

**Richard Sinkoff**, in memory of Roslyn Sinkoff, who taught elementary school in Brownsville during her entire professional career.

**Jeanette Nichols**, in honor of Phyllis Mintzer, Rabbi Kahn and all the Kadimah children and families.

**Phyllis Mintzer**, in memory of Harriet Opal and Rose Mintzer.

**Nina Raff, Annie Winters & Reuben Isaac Raff**, in honor of the birth of Olivia Wolper Greenfield.

**Ron Lezell**, in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Eileen Levy.

### Kaiser Brunch Fund

**Allan Berenstein**, in memory of Nanci Stern.

### Library Fund

**Malia Lewis**, in memory of Murray Lewis.

### Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

**Shelley Spiro**, in honor of Gabriele Kassner's leap into midlife.

**Kim Klausner & Debra Chasnow**, in honor of the naming of Oscar Chasnow Klausner.

**Nancy Polikoff**, in appreciation of Rabbi Kahn.

**Nancy Sadlier**, in appreciation of Rabbi Kahn.

**Rachel and Donald Strauber**, in honor of the Kiddushin of Carolyn Pines and Judy Schwartz.

## Oneg Sponsors

These generous people sponsored onegs during the month of May:

5/6 **Leslie Bergson & Pat Smith**, to commemorate the yahrzeit of Nanci Gale Stern.

5/13 **Paul Margolis**, to commemorate the yahrzeit of his domestic partner, Larry Hewitt.

5/20 **Michael W.**, in honor of Ed Piburn.

5/27 **Steve Lowinger**, in celebration of the naming of Samuel Austin Lowinger.

## Jewish Movies at the Lesbian and Gay Film Festival

The 18th San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival is bringing two Jewish films to the screen this year: *Beyond the Pale* and *Fast Trip, Long Drop*.

*Beyond the Pale* is an exploration of lesbian and gay subtext in Yiddish cinema during its heyday (from the

mid-1930s to the outbreak of World War II). From musical comedies, such as *Yidl With a Fiddle* and *American Matchmaker*, to classic dramas such as *The Dybbuk* and *Overture to Glory*, homosexuality emerged as an alternate take on themes of conflicted identity, passing, and same-sex attachments. The evening will also include modern feature films, such as *Radio Days*, *Yentl*, and *Colonel Redl*, as well as clips from period home movies.

*Fast Trip, Long Drop* is an examination of videomaker/activist Gregg Bordowitz's sense of identity, in light of his

HIV-positive diagnosis. In the film, painful and difficult subjects are treated with humor and compassion. The artist's Jewish cultural heritage is mined for ways to cope with loss and despair.

The 18th San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival runs from June 9-19. For advance tickets with no convenience fee, visit a BASS ticket center at The Wharehouse or Tower Records/Video. Or call (510-762-BASS); there is a fee for phone orders. For more information, call the 24-hour festival hotline (703-8650).

## Classifieds

**DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY:** Two nice Jewish boys (one even belongs to the Congregation) are starting a Country Western dance establishment. We are looking for serious investors. We have a fully developed, unique concept and a business plan. Call Jim Frazin (337-4566). Confidentiality required.

**SINGING LESSONS WITH RUTH RAINERO:** I trained at the Royal Conservatory of the Hague, have 18 years teaching and performing experience; my strong background in theater and dance enables me to coach repertoire ranging from classical to musicals to jazz. I concentrate on developing a sound vocal technique through the entire person: breathing, posture, areas of (vocal) tension, resonance, articulation — all receive attention. Working with "problem voices" and helping increase self-confidence are my specialties. Since returning to the US, I have taught at ACT and UC Davis. All levels and voice types accepted; your motivation is the only prerequisite. 681-0180.

**LEARN SPANISH AND ITALIAN** with pleasant and fast method. Grammar, conversation and literature. All levels. Teacher from Spain. Ten years experience. Call 928-4075.

**FOR RENT:** Diamond Heights studio with beautiful view; available July 1. Call Tova at 510/428-0240.

**MOM AND INFANT** have private room to rent in large, quiet, comfortable home, beginning June 15. Near UCSF, GG park. \$550. Call 564-5870 after 6 pm or weekends.

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# JUNE

סינַת תִּבְרָא

<b>1</b> Wednesday 22 Sivan	<b>8</b> Wednesday 29 Sivan	<b>14</b> Tuesday 5 Tammuz	<b>23</b> Thursday 14 Tammuz
<b>2</b> Thursday 23 Sivan • 7pm, Long Range Planning Committee	<b>9</b> Thursday 30 Sivan • 7pm, Children's Education meeting • 7:30pm, Sustaining our Spirits with Nancy Flam	<b>15</b> Wednesday 6 Tammuz	<b>24</b> Friday 15 Tammuz • High Holidays Participation Form deadline • 8:15pm, Shabbat service
<b>3</b> Friday 24 Sivan • 8:15pm, Shabbat service Installation of Officers	<b>10</b> Friday 1 Tammuz • 8:15pm, Shabbat service	<b>16</b> Thursday 7 Tammuz • 6:30pm, Bikkur Cholim meeting	<b>25</b> Saturday 16 Tammuz
<b>4</b> Saturday 25 Sivan • 6:30pm, Women's Chavurah Havdalah and Potluck at the home of Donna Rabinowitz	<b>11</b> Saturday 2 Tammuz • 10:30am, Shabbat service • 8:15pm, Parade Fundraiser and Training (Sanctuary and Oneg Room)	<b>17</b> Friday 8 Tammuz • 8:15pm, Shabbat service (Shabbat Freedom)	<b>26</b> Sunday 17 Tammuz • 10:30am, Kaiser Brunch • 4:30pm, Wedding — Dianne Kahn & Todd Catropa
<b>5</b> Sunday 26 Sivan • 4pm, Klezmer rehearsal	<b>12</b> Sunday 3 Tammuz • 10:30am, Children's Programming meeting in the East Bay • 4pm, Klezmer rehearsal	<b>18</b> Saturday 9 Tammuz	<b>27</b> Monday 18 Tammuz • 7pm, Newsletter proofing
<b>6</b> Monday 27 Sivan • 6pm, Healing service	<b>13</b> Monday 4 Tammuz • 6:30pm, Va'ad meeting	<b>19</b> Sunday 10 Tammuz • 10:30am, meet for Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade	<b>28</b> Tuesday 19 Tammuz
<b>7</b> Tuesday 28 Sivan • 7pm, Dues Committee meeting		<b>20</b> Monday 11 Tammuz • 6pm, Healing service	<b>29</b> Wednesday 20 Tammuz
<b>Note:</b> Gray areas indicate religious services.		<b>21</b> Tuesday 12 Tammuz	<b>30</b> Thursday 21 Tammuz • 6:30pm, Ritual Committee
		<b>22</b> Wednesday 13 Tammuz • 7pm, Newsletter editing	

## JULY/AUGUST FORWARD DEADLINES

### FOR ADVERTISING MONDAY, JUNE 6

To place a display ad, call Barney Ugarte (386-2472).

To place a classified ad, call the office.

### FOR ARTICLES MONDAY, JUNE 13

Write us an article! Type it *double spaced*, write "Attn: Gaily Forward" on top, and mail or fax (861-6081) to CSZ. If possible, submit it on disk too: this will help keep our costs down. No deadline extensions without advance permission from the newsletter chair (621-7675).

### East Bay Services

- 6/17 Susan Tubbesing's, 3433 Brunell Dr., Oakland, 510/482-3740
- 7/15 Claudia Bernard and Howard Herman's, 644 Fairmount, Oakland, 510/658-0123
- 8/19 Merry Luskin's, 4027 Brookdale Ave., Oakland, 510/536-4391

*As always, we will publish only one issue for July and August. Look for it in mid (not early) July.*

## Synagogue Information

**Rabbi Yoel Kahn** (on sabbatical)

**Officers:**

*President, Tiela Chalmers (431-4312)  
Administrative Vice President,  
David Stein (863-4769)  
Program Vice President,  
Nathan Robinson  
Treasurer, Gary Sokol  
Recorder, Mark Mackler*

**Va'ad (Board) Members:**

Phil Chamey  
Daniel Chesir  
Ida Kuluk  
Ron Lezell  
Carolyn Pines  
Ora Prochovnick  
Lane Schickler  
Susan Tubbesing

**Office Personnel:**

*Office Manager, Lea Salem  
Rabbi's Secretary, David Couch  
Program Coordinator, Sydney Levy*

*Finance, Brett Trueman*

*Fine Arts, Alice Prussin*

*Fundraising, Michael Zimmerman and  
Ellie Cohen*

*Gift Shop, Jeff Rubin*

*Israel Chavurah, Ron Lezell*

*Leadership Development, Irene Ogus*

*Long-Range Planning, Allan Gold*

*Membership, Carolyn Pines*

*Newsletter, Joe Hample (621-7675)*

*Oneg, Debbi Jacobs-Levine*

*Past Presidents Council, Don Albert*

*Personnel, David Stein*

*Public Relations, Sharyn Saslafsky*

*Religious School, Trudi Hauptman*

*Ritual, Frank Yellin*

*Social Action, Eloise Magenheim*

*Social Program, by committee*

*Volunteer Coordinator, Robin Leonard*

*Women's Chavurah, Donna*

*Rabinowitz*

*Members wishing to contact any Va'ad member or committee chair  
are invited to obtain his or her number from the synagogue office.*

**Office Hours:** Monday–Friday from 9 am to 3 pm. Please call the synagogue office at 861-6932.

**Services** are held every Friday evening beginning at 8:15 pm (except as noted), with an Oneg Shabbat following services. Services are generally held on the second Saturday of each month at 10:30 am—check calendar for each month.

**Emergency Number:** In an emergency, the congregation can be contacted outside of office hours by calling 861-6938.

**Gift Shop Hours:** Fridays, 7:30–8:05 pm.

**Bikkur Cholim:** If you or a friend who is a member of Sha'ar Zahav are ill in the hospital or at home, and would like to have the rabbi or a member of the Bikkur Cholim Committee call or visit, please notify the synagogue office.

**Library Hours:** Open during office hours, and 30 minutes before and after Friday night services.

**Member** of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (Mike Rankin, Robin Leonard, Allyce Kimerling, Liaisons) and of the World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations (Lane Schickler, Liaison).

**Congregation Sha'ar Zahav** (Congregation of the Golden Gate) is located in the Upper Market District of San Francisco at 220 Danvers at Caselli, which is one block south of the intersection of 18th and Market streets. By public transport, take MUNI bus 33 Stanyan to 18th and Danvers and walk one block south on Danvers to Caselli.

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# High Holiday Services Participation Form

We at CSZ try to provide an opportunity for each member to participate in High Holiday services.

There will be Hebrew chants, readings in English, and shofar-blowing opportunities for the various services. Only members who return this form to the synagogue office by **Friday, June 24** can be assured an opportunity to participate.

## Return this form to:

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav  
220 Danvers Street  
San Francisco, CA 94114

## Deadline

This form must be returned no later than Friday, June 24

Names \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

- I would like to learn a Hebrew chant
- I can read Hebrew well
- I can chant from the Torah
- I would like to blow the shofar
- I would like to learn to blow the shofar

## I will be at the following services:

- All services

### Rosh Hashanah

- Monday evening (Ma'ariv), Sept. 5
- Tuesday morning (Shacharit and Musaf), Sept. 6
- Tuesday morning (Children's Services), Sept. 6

### Yom Kippur

- Wednesday evening (Kol Nidre), Sept. 14
- Thursday morning (Shacharit and Musaf), Sept. 15
- Thursday morning (Children's Services), Sept. 15
- Thursday late afternoon (Yizkor and Neilah), Sept. 15

I would prefer reading during the following service:

---

We will try to accommodate preferences as much as possible. Parts will be mailed out in early August.

There will be practice sessions following services on Friday, August 19 and Friday, August 26 for anyone who wants to practice a part. You are required to attend at least one session if you are chanting a prayer or a portion from the Torah.

